

Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee  
Plainfield Energy Group  
Notes of 5/2/11 Meeting

Recorded by John Morris

Meeting called to order 7:05 PM, chairman Richard Phillips presiding.

Attending: Rich Phillips, John Morris, Edward Hutchinson (Plainfield), Bob Atchinson (Plainfield), Lawrence Black, Anne Miller and Joel Trupin,

The minutes of the meetings of 10 Jan 2011, 14 Feb 2011, and 3/14/2011 were approved. The meeting scheduled for 5 Apr 2011 was canceled due to low attendance.

**Town Plan:**

Rich looked into the new law regarding the energy section of the town plan and found that no changes to our proposed draft were needed. Therefore, he sent the energy section of the town plan to the planning commission. We may need to participate in a public meeting. If so, the planning commission will contact us.

**VCAN Grant for the School Project:**

We received the grant we applied for a few months ago. Plainfield has not heard yet about their application. The grant is \$2,700. The results are required by the first of the year, which could be a problem as the school project will not be starting until the fall.

**Marshfield Updates:**

The committees working on the school project spent some time on the question of the roof because it will be replaced this year. There is a lot of heat loss through the roof, especially in the elementary wing. There is a plan to do an energy assessment as part of the roof replacement and perhaps add some insulation. The cost of that assessment and insulation may bring the cost of the roof project over the \$600,000 approved by the town. Some people think there may be other money available, including borrowing against the energy savings.

Rich put out the request for proposals for the schoolhouse common boiler and expects to get two or three bids. The new plan is to vent the new boiler through the chimney next to the vent for the remaining oil boiler.

We have a grant for a park and ride at the schoolhouse common, but we may not need one right now. The plan had been to put some parking spaces on the berm near the road, but we almost never have more than two commuter cars in the designated spots because most people either walk to the bus or are dropped off. There was some discussion of putting up a shelter like Plainfield has or installing a bike rack. With help from GMTA, a shelter would not cost much money and a bike rack could be used by people visiting the schoolhouse common for other purposes. However, there is also the concern about any structures, including possibly a bike rack, requiring a variance from the DRB because the entire area is in a floodplain.

We have also received some other grants that have not been acted upon. There is a \$4,000 grant we were planning to use to insulate the heating pipes in the schoolhouse common. However, the problem seems to be solved by lowering the boiler temperature. We could give the money to the firehouse for other work identified by the energy assessment. It can't be given to the town garage because it was not part of the assessment and what would they use it for?

The village streetlights might come up again. There is a new rate proposal from GMP that would offer a significant savings if the lights are converted to LED. Another idea was offered to make them solar powered. One can imagine a scenario where the lights feed power into the grid all day and then draw power from the grid all night, so no storage would be required at the lights.

**Plainfield Updates:**

Plainfield received a grant from the regional planning commission. Bob plans to check on the grant from VCAN.

**Brainstorming Residential Involvement Meetings:**

The order of the meetings was discussed at length. The sense of the meeting was that we should start with a discussion with townspeople about what they need. If there is interest, we can do the philosophy later. We will probably also want to have meetings about the technologies and showcase some success stories. Finally, we should ask the townspeople what they want us to do.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm